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ENGINEER RECEIVES ARMY R&D ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Javier Cortes, a chemical engineer in the U. S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Environmental Laboratory, recently received the Army Research and Development (R&D) Achievement Award.

Cortes and former ERDC employee Brian Miles received the award for their work on the Site Characterization and Analysis Penetrometer System (SCAPS) Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy Probe for Detection of Subsurface Heavy Metal Contamination in Soils. Cortes and Miles developed, demonstrated and patented the LIBS probe, which measures the subsurface extent and magnitude of heavy-metal solution *in situ* for SCAPS. This technique results in soil characterization with greater speed, higher resolution and lower cost than current soil sampling and laboratory analysis methods.

Cortes holds a bachelor's of science in chemical engineering from the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez and is pursuing a master's of science in chemical engineering from Mississippi State University.

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